

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 IO-13 RSR-01 /111 W

----- 104626

R 021103Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9849

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 5306

E.O. 11652: DECONTROL ON RECEIPT

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: ELECTIONS TIMETABLE

REF: ISLAMABAD 5056

1. LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER PIRZADA RECONFIRMED JUNE 30 THAT NEW CONSTITUTION WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON AUGUST 14. PIRZADA ALSO STATED THAT ELECTION OF PRESIDENT BY COMBINED SENATE AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 3 OR 4. ELECTION OF PRIME MINISTER WOULD OCCUR AT SOME DATE PRIOR TO AUGUST 10. CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE WILL BE ELECTED ON AUGUST 1. OR 2.

2. AMONG PPP NOMINEES IN SENATE ELECTION ARE PRODUCTION AND PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER J. A. RAHIM AND BHUTTO'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT RAFI RAZA, BOTH NOMINATED FROM SIND. WE PRESUME THAT MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AZIZ AHMED AND POSSIBLY MINISTER OF STATE FOR NATIONAL AFFAIRS AND OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS AND PRISONS MAHMUD ALI (OR ONE OF BHUTTO'S SPECIAL ASSISTANTS) WILL RECEIVE NOMINATIONS FOR THE TWO SENATE SEATS FROM

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FEDERAL CAPITAL AREA. IN THIS REGARD, AZIZ AHMED

ANNOUNCED JUNE 28 HE HAD JOINED PEOPLES' PARTY (SEE
SEPTTEL THIS SUBJECT). PROBABLE THAT ANOTHER CENTRAL
MINISTER WITHOUT ELECTIVE FEDERAL POSITION, SHERPAO, WILL
RETAIN HIS SEAT IN NORTH WEST FRONTIER ASSEMBLY. REMAINING
CENTRAL MINISTER, WITHOUT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEAT, RAISANI,
MAY ALSO DECIDE RETAIN BALUCHISTAN ASSEMBLY SEAT THUS
LOSING CENTRAL PORTFOLIO.

3. SENATORIAL ELECTIONS BEING CONDUCTED UNDER SYSTEM OF
PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION BY MEANS OF SINGLE TRANSFERABLE
VOTE. COMPLEX VOTING SYSTEM WHICH ELECTION COMMISSION
INFORMS US IS ALSO USED IN UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS IN INDIA
AND IRELAND, INTER ALIA, IS DESIGNED TO INSURE THAT STRENGTH
OF EACH POLITICAL PARTY IN SENATE IS GENERALLY IN PROPORTION
TO ITS RELATIVE STRENGTH IN POPULARLY ELECTED ASSEMBLY.
SOBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ISLAMA05306
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730759/aaaabrbk.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 ISLAMABAD 5056
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTIONS TIMETABLE
TAGS: PINT, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005